



In Touch With Take Pride

April 2007

Upcoming Events

April 15 – 21, 2007

[National Volunteer Week](#)

April 15 – 22, 2007

[National Environmental
Education Week](#)

April 20 – 22, 2007

[National & Global Youth
Service Day](#)

April 22, 2007

[Earth Day](#)

April 22 – 29, 2007

[National Parks Week](#)

April 27, 2007

[Arbor Day](#)

Greetings from the Executive Director

Dear Readers,

I am so excited and proud to join this wonderfully dedicated group of people at Take Pride in America®. It is an honor to serve in this new position, and I look forward to supporting our volunteers who have answered the President's call to service.

I am a native Floridian and I grew up enjoying the outdoors. The lessons of good stewardship towards our parks, forests, and wildlife were ever-present, and I want our public lands to be appreciated by future generations as well. It will be Take Pride in America's commitment to help instill in today's youth the importance of taking care of the shared spaces we all enjoy.

I look forward to the challenge ahead, and traveling the country to meet many of you along the way!

Sincerely,

Heather Roebke

Take Pride National Awards Nominations Due April 30th!

Presented annually, the Take Pride National Awards recognize specific volunteer efforts in several categories. These awards, given for outstanding stewardship of public lands, honor those who protect or enhance our public parks, forests, grasslands, wildlife refuges, cultural and historical sites, playgrounds or other recreation areas. Help us say "thank you" by nominating an individual or group for a National Award! The Awards Ceremony will take place in Washington, DC in July 2007.

Nominations are due no later than noon EST on April 30, 2007. Applications and further information can be found on our website at www.TakePride.gov.

Volunteer Event Spotlight

The Southeast Tourism Society, in partnership with Take Pride, hosted a volunteer work day in Biloxi, Mississippi at the Jefferson Davis Presidential Library and Beauvoir House. In conjunction with the Southeast Tourism Society Spring Meeting, participants helped with the restoration of the site that was ravaged by Hurricane Katrina. Many thanks to all who participated!



Jenni Garrison pitches in at the Beauvoir House.

Congratulations to Janet Rodgers, President & CEO of Alpharetta Convention and Visitors Bureau, of Alpharetta, Georgia for winning the Take Pride Prize Pack at the STS Spring Meeting!

New Hours of Service Awards Available!

In an effort to recognize public lands volunteers at every level, the Take Pride in America office has joined with [USA Freedom Corps](#) to expand its current awards program. As a way to say “thank you” for their hard work, volunteers who have reached the hours of service levels specified below can now be nominated by their supervisor or site volunteer coordinator for an Hours of Service Award.

For more information, please contact Lisa Young in the Take Pride office at 202-208-5848.

Award Name

The Presidential Volunteer Service Bronze Award
The Presidential Volunteer Service Silver Award
The Presidential Volunteer Service Gold Award
The Take Pride Bronze Award
The Take Pride Silver Award
The Take Pride Gold Award
The Secretarial Volunteer Service Award
The Presidential Volunteer Service Award

Hours of Service

100-249 volunteer hours
250-499 volunteer hours
500-999 volunteer hours
1,000 volunteer hours
2,000 volunteer hours
2,500 volunteer hours
3,000 volunteer hours
4,000 volunteer hours

Sign Up to be a Take Pride School!

The Take Pride School program involves elementary, middle and high schools in creating a new generation of volunteers to act as stewards over our public resources. Take Pride Schools accomplish 2 volunteer projects every school year. Projects may be done by the school, a classroom or a club. Projects must be on public lands (public schools included!), promote Take Pride's message, and benefit public use of public land. To learn more, go to: <http://www.takepride.gov/programs/schools.cfm>

Did You Know?

The **America the Beautiful Pass** covers **admission fees** into any area managed by the National Park Service, the USDA Forest Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, or Bureau of Reclamation.

In appreciation for their hard work, an **America the Beautiful Volunteer Pass** is now available and is issued **free of charge** to volunteers who accrue 500 volunteer hours annually with a number of different public lands agencies!

For more information, click here:
<http://store.usgs.gov/pass/volunteer.html>



Secretary Kempthorne hikes through the Great Smokey Mountains with local students from a Take Pride School, Pi Beta Phi Elementary School.

Community Volunteer Event Spotlight

Earlier this year, the City of Las Vegas hosted a Community Pride Day where over 400 volunteers helped with the community beautification project. Participants included church members, the South Nevada Community Gang Task Force, the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, and many others. Approximately 2.5 miles of block wall were painted, and volunteers also assisted with a neighborhood clean-up to remove unwanted trash and debris.



In the end, over 62 tons of trash were removed. Congratulations to the City of Las Vegas on a very successful volunteer project!

New Take Pride School!
Bob Bailey Middle School
North Las Vegas, Nevada

Thank you...

Thanks to our contributors for this edition of "In Touch With Take Pride." Please keep sending us articles and photos at TakePride@ios.doi.gov for future newsletter editions or for publication on our website.